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FOREWORD

Close air support (CAS) is a Marine Corps innovation. Since the first dive bombing attempts in World War I and subsequent operations in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Nicaragua in the 1920s, Marines have realized the value of closely integrating aviation with ground combat efforts. World War II and the Korean war galvanized the importance of CAS. During those conflicts, the fundamental tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) for conducting CAS today were forged in places such as Guadalcanal and the Pusan Perimeter. Today, CAS continues to be Marine aviation's unique contribution to the combat power available to a Marine air-ground task force (MAGTF) commander.

Marine Corps Warfighting Publication (MCWP) 3-23.1, *Close Air Support*, addresses basic CAS doctrine and TTP. MCWP 3-23.1 complements and expands on the information in MCWP 3-23, *Offensive Air Support*, by focusing on the details of CAS employment and the role CAS plays in integrated MAGTF, joint, and multinational operations. Designated for MAGTF commanders, naval expeditionary force commanders, joint force commanders, and their staffs, MCWP 3-23.1 highlights CAS:

- Fundamentals
- Command, control, and communications
- Planning considerations
- Execution using fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft.

MCWP 3-23.1 provides the requisite information needed by commanders and staffs to understand and evaluate the capabilities of various CAS employment options. Additionally, MCWP 3-23.1 offers standard procedures and terminology by which ground force personnel and pilots of fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft can deliver aircraft ordnance in close proximity to friendly forces.

This publication supersedes Fleet Marine Force Manual (FMFM) 5-41, *Close Air Support and Close-in Fire Support*.

Recommendations for improving this publication are invited from commands as well as directly from individuals.

Reviewed and approved this date.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

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